

Docket No.: 061355-0057

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REMARKS

JAN 29 2007

This Response is being filed responsive to the Final Office Action of November 1, 2006. For the following reasons, this application should be considered in condition for allowance and the case passed to issue.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Ohtsuji et al. (hereinafter "Ohtsuji"). This rejection is hereby traversed and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested. The following is a comparison of the present invention with the Ohtsuji reference.

Claim 1, as amended, describes information providing apparatus that allows the user to customize voice guidance for use in subsequent dialogue with the user through an automatic voice response via a telephone line. Desired information is stored in an off-vehicle information storage device, and is provided based on information selected from a dialogue between the user and the apparatus, via a telephone line. Hence, the system allows a user to customize and edit audio guidance used in a subsequent dialogue with the system. In this way, audio guidance includes only selections associated with information or options that are frequently used by the user, to reduce the time needed for subsequent audio guidance and dialogues, which would otherwise require navigation through fixed layers of menu selections to obtain the desired information.

In order to anticipate the claims of an invention, a single prior art reference must identically disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. It is respectfully submitted that Ohtsuji fails to satisfy this high burden.

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Ohtsuji, U.S. Patent Application Publication 20020156570, relates to an audio interactive navigation system and audio interactive server. In Ohtsuji, user information obtained by a certification processing unit 308 is transmitted to an individual information management unit 309 as individual information for each user and stored in the individual information database 310. This database 310 can additionally store a user history such as past information search results for each user. The individual information management unit 309 transfers the stored information for each individual user to the interactive data generation unit 306 and the individual information is used as reference for generation of an audio interactive model characterized for each user at the time of service use. (Paragraph [0048]).

This passage shows that any characterization for an individual user is made based on user history or ID information of a user. There is nothing disclosed in Ohtsuji that allows the user to customize the audio guidance. Nor is the customization mechanism described as an interactive voice response device. Instead, Ohtsuji transfers the information from the certification passage unit 308 and stores user history, such as past information search results, without intervention or discretion of the user. Hence, Ohtsuji does not disclose allowing any user to customize the audio guidance in a manner in which the user desires. Any characterization of the generation of the audio interactive model for a user provided by Ohtsuji appears to be done automatically, and not necessarily in accordance with the desires of a user.

The present invention, as recited in amended claim 1, requires "an interactive voice response device configured to allow a user to customize audio guidance used in a subsequent dialogue that the user to an automatic voice response via the telephone line." Ohtsuji fails to disclose an interactive response device configured in this manner. Since anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) requires identical disclosure of each and every element that is claimed, Ohtsuji

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cannot be considered to anticipate claim 1 of the present invention as it fails to disclose at least this element. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1, as well as claims 2-6, which further depend from and limit claim 1 as amended, are respectfully requested.

Claim 7 recites an interactive voice response means for customizing audio guidance associated with the user based on the user's input when the customized guidance is used in subsequent dialogue with the user in automatic voice response via the telephone line. For similar reasons as provided above with respect to claim 1, claim 7 should also be considered allowable in view of Ohtsuji. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) are therefore respectfully requested.

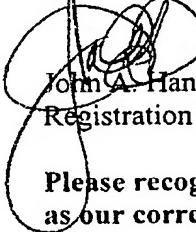
In light of the remarks provided, this application should be considered in condition for allowance and the case passed to issue. If you have any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502624 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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